



A Chapter of the American Planning Association

Michigan Association of Planning

May 16, 2005

The Honorable Kevin Elsenheimer
State Representative
S1389 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Dear Representative Elsenheimer,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 4398, the Michigan Zoning Act. Consolidating the State's three zoning acts (County, Township, and City/Village) into a single Act is long overdue, and will result in many benefits to communities across Michigan.

This bill will simplify the language of the Zoning Acts, and the structural and organizational changes will make it easier for communities to read and understand its provisions. A single act will make it much easier to make future amendments to the act, as only a single act will have to be changed, rather than three. Including common procedures for public hearing notices, and ease of use and reference due to a simpler organization with separate articles for similar topics are other important benefits.

Thank you for inviting the Michigan Association of Planning to the working group meetings, and for calling on us for technical assistance. Key stakeholder involvement is critical when developing legislation such as this, and the discussion and debate at the meetings was crucial to developing a consensus among participants. The bill proposes no substantive changes to the zoning enabling legislation, and seeks only to consolidate the three acts, and you steadfastly stood by this principle, delivering this message to participants clearly.

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The Michigan Association of Planning commends your leadership on this issue, and again, we strongly urge passage of the bill out of the Local Government and Urban Policy Committee and on to the House.

Please know that we are available for continued technical assistance.

Always at your service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Brown".

Andrea Brown, AICP
Executive Director

“Making Great Places Happen”